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Observations by Rufus Tyler Coiner for the Branch Mint of the United States at New Orleans, ~~&~~ made, & to be verified, pursuant to the requirements of the investigating committee, in reply to the various letters which have been submitted by the Superintendant.

Having been coupled with James Mapuell Esq, the Melter & Refiner of the New Orleans Branch Mint, by David Bradford Esq, the Superintendant, in his complaints to Doctor Patterson, Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, & to the Honble Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, I beg leave to invoke Mr Mapuell's statement in my defence - it will save all parties much trouble & time, as the same detail, & the same course of reasoning, would otherwise in most cases be necessary.

I have read Mr Mapuell's statement with attention, & believe it to be true in all things - it is so, so far as my knowledge extends; & I fully concur with him in the opinions therein expressed.

It is to be lamented, that Mr Bradford has undertaken to mix up the business of the New Orleans Branch Mint, with party politics; however, it is to be presumed that he had no good cause of complaint, or would not have resorted to so weak a device; & especially so, when there was no foundation, ~~therefor~~ ~~his statement~~.

I am not adverse to the present administration of the General Government, nor do I meddle much with politics - my mind is too much occupied with the duties of my office, & the domestic concerns of my family (who are dependant on my daily

labor for their support) to allow me to embark in the unprofitable contest about party politics. I have not voted since I have resided in Louisiana; & have attended only one political meeting; & that was of the friends of Dennis Prieur Esqr in support of his election for the Chief Magistracy of this State.

It is not true that any plan was ever matured by myself individually, or in connection with Mr Mapnell, or others, to get out of office every Southerner; Creole; & all who could speak French, & have their places supplied from Philadelphia.

I have not any prejudices against the French; the Creoles; or the Southerners - all attempts to enlist the political feelings of the President of the United States; & of the Honble the Secretary of the Treasury, by creating unwarrantable prejudices, are unworthy of any person who professes to be a friend to the New Orleans Branch Mint.

It is admitted that ~~great~~ complaint has been made at the tardy operations of the New Orleans Branch Mint: these complaints emanate principally from some of the Banks, & a few individuals who have been deprived of the use of their funds for a long time. Had dollars, & half dollars, together with gold pieces been coined, in place of dimes, & half dimes; more than ten times the amount could have been turned out in the same time, by the same number of workmen, all could not go on at the same time, with the number of men allowed by law.

The public had been burthened with the circulation of small bills - they were very anxious to get rid of them, on the resumption of ~~Specie payments by the Banks it could not be~~

Treasury Department March 20th 1837

Sir I transmit to you a draft of this morning for the Branch Mint at Philadelphia. I am very respectfully Your obt Servt (signed) Levi Woodbury

Dr Reed Supt Branch Mint New Orleans.

~~use without small change, therefore the operations of~~ Specie payments by the Banks – this could not be done without small change; therefore, the operations of the Mint have been principally confined to the coining dimes, & half dimes, but for which, few complaints would have been heard.

Messrs F Ganahl & Co deposited in January, gold bullion, for which the Treasurer promised coin in a few weeks; disappointed by not receiving it, they applied in May to know the reason, & the Treasurer replied, that, "the Coiner had not put it in his power to redeem his promise", thus subjecting me not only to the prejudice of Messrs Ganahl & Co, but to the public prejudice, by misleading them, as to the true cause of the delay; but, I do not blame the Treasurer, so much as others; as, I believe he signed a paper prepared for him, without due consideration.

The gold dies were not as I believe received at the Mint for months after the date of this deposit. I have applied to the proper offices & so irregular is the system of business at the New Orleans Branch Mint, that the cannot furnish the date of their receipt, however, the Honble the Secretary of the Treasury's letter dated the 20th March is believed to advise of their being then forwarded ~~so~~ * ~~which~~ This letter furnishes pretty good evidence, that they could not have been received before April; yet, Mr Forstall states in effect, in his letter of the 16th May, that it was the Coiner's fault that the gold coin was not delivered in a few weeks from the date of the deposit made in Jany, & the Superintendant gravely forwards the correspondence between Messrs Ganahl & Co, & the Treasurer, to the

* The words & figures following contained in the original letter are erased.

Honble the Secretary of the Treasury, in support of his application for my removal, all which will appear by the following correspondence.

New Orleans May 14th 1839

Edmund Fastall Esq
Treasurer Branch Mint

Dear Sir

We had this morning presented to us your certificate in our favor, dated 25th Ult last, No 31, for gold Bullion to the amount of

6513.33

No 47 Silver Bullion 47.26

6560.59

May we ask why the certificates which you promised to cash in a few weeks from the time the deposite was made, have been refused ever since, though repeated applications have been made for the funds

Very respectfully
(signed) F Ganahl & Co

U.S. B Mint Treasurers office
New Orleans 16th May 1839

Messrs Ganahl & Co
Gentn

I have received yours of the 14th inst, very much regret that the Coiner has not put in my power to redeem the promise that I was induced by his representations to make you of early payment.

Respectfully
(signed) Edmund Fastall
Treasr B Mint N.O.

June 7th 1839

Sir

In answer to your letter of this date, I

I have to say, that I have no recoad of the date of the receipt of the dies, which have been received at this B. Mint, therewith you have the letters of the Secretary of the Treasury, shewing when they were forwarded, & also the copies of your reports, which please return when you shall have done with them, & oblige

To Rufus Tyler Esq Coiner
U.S. Mint N.O.

Yr humt Servt
David Bradford
Supt

The coining department is now in successful operation, capable of turning out 30.000 pieces of coin daily, & will soon be enabled to satisfy the claims of all depositors. The delays, & impediments which have occurred, in the main such as are inseperable from putting into successful operation all large establishments, with complicated machinery, which I will explain in detail with the exhibition of the machinery & works, whenever it shall suit the convenience of the committee to inspect the same.

Much time has been consumed in putting into operation the Power Press; the peculiar difficulties of which, will be duly appreciated by the director.

In January the number of pieces coined was much less than at the present time; but, such has been the progressive improvement of the works, that the monthly increase in the quantity turned out has been from 100.000, to 200.000 pieces.

Mr Bradford in his letter to the Director under date of May 26th 1839 states; that "I

am however now convinced from the statements of two successive foremen, Mr Brown, & Mr P Denny, the most valuable machinists we have had in the Mint, that the true cause of delay is not to be found in defective machinery, but in the determination of the Coiner that the machinery sent from Philada should not work; until it had been condemned, & remodelled by him; he has always manifested a bitter hostility to Mr Peele; & it was because Mr Peele had invented or arranged the machines that they were to be condemned.

Also in same letter he says:

"Brown & Denny have both assured me; that, the Machinery & presses were in good order; that the delay was unnecessary, the alterations of Mr Tyler unavailing; & that after all, he had to restore them to the state in which he found them, before he could get them to work".

In this the Superintendant was misinformed, as, whenever I have attempted an alteration, I have not had to restore the machinery & presses to the state in which I found them, except on one occasion, where I attempted an alteration — it was not successful — a days work, for a single man, was lost, after which the defect was cured, by making an addition to the press. in this unsuccessful attempt,

I am charged with hostility to Mr Peele. We are both artists — & both confident of the superiority of our skill in some particulars; but, so far from entertaining any hostility that would influence my conduct as an officer of the Mint, I am free to declare my admiration at his superiority in many things, & of his high attainments in mechanical skill.

One of the presses pronounced by Mr Bradford as perfect, now stands in the Machine shop of the New Orleans Branch Mint, in the condition it was left after a thorough trial in the Mint at Philadelphia, when it was ascertained, that considerable alterations would be necessary.

The Superintendant professes to be a chemist, & a man of general science; & I presume is of the opinion, that with a little superficial observation, he could perform the duties which have cost me a life of the most intense study & labor, & the expenditure of thousands, to qualify myself for; the complains as I understand him, that I would not allow him to convert to his own use the fruits of such labor, study, & expenditure.

His complaint about the process of hardening the dies, has no doubt been selected as my most vulnerable point, in the charge of withholding information he wished to acquire.

Again, I am charged with disrespect for the Superintendant, for having so altered the locks on the doors leading to my room, as to prevent their being unlocked by his Skeleton key. I am made answerable for ~~all~~ the full amount of all the Bullion Receives. I could not consent to have my rooms entered at improper times, nor trust to the ~~providence~~ of the Superintendant in the care of a key, that would alike admit the porter; his servants; a strangers; if they should be entrusted with it; or otherwise gain its profession. I therefore, after having discovered great carelessness in the use of such a key,

after it went into the my possession of Mr Bradford, was induced to alter the locks. During my absence at the North last summer, he as I was informed caused a new key to be made; & the old one altered to meet the alteration of the locks; & the first knowledge I had of the existence of such a key, was observing it in the possession of the porter. When I again altered some of the locks. If this were wrong, the Superintendant had only to issue his order, & if I disobeyed it, to report the case to the proper department.

On another occasion he issued an order which I promptly obeyed – it was in words & figures following viz:

U S B Mint New Orleans

Rufus Tyler Esq Coiner

Sir

I hereby direct that the centre door leading from the hall into the Rolling room be kept unlocked, between the hours of 9 A.M. & 4 P.M. and noon; also the door from the rolling room, to the Coining room, & one of the doors from the drawing & cutting rooms, into the hall on the attic story; & the door from the cutting & drawing, into the milling room – you will please direct the workmen to shew such attention to visiters during said hours as to you may appear proper.

Your humble servant

March 1st 1839. (Signed) David Bradford

Supt

(2) ~~The Melter & Refiner solicited to him self to be threatened with chastisement by Bradford for performing what he considered a reprehensible conduct on the part of the overlooker & the Superintendant in~~ [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

Among the charges against me is: that, I required Mr Denny to be dismissed without giving my reasons therefor — to this request the Superintendent had the right of withholding his assent; & I had the right if he did so, to seek other employment; & by saying so, I did not suppose I was violating any duty I had undertaken to perform.

And it was not to have been expected, that he would after slumbering on it for 6 or 12 months; summon the affair from the tomb; & use it in support of his new charges.

The Melter & Refiner subjected himself to be threatened with chastisement ~~by [illegible]~~ for having pointed out what he considered very reprehensible conduct on the part of the Weigher; & the Superintendent, in his letter of May 19th 1809 to the Director of the Mint stated, that: "I assure you, no gentleman can receive such an insult in this city, or in any of the Southern States, & maintain his character as an honest man, & his rank in society, without resenting it personally, & promptly".

These things tell me I was right in refusing to give to a Superintendent entertaining such opinions, my reasons; provided, the interests of the public could be otherwise protected.

I had not any knowledge of the circumstances relating to the Treasurer's key, until I heard the charges read before the investigating committee. Mr Denny consequently could not have been dismissed for any such reason.

Mr Bradford says in his letter to the Director under date of Feby 18th 1809; that, "The delay in

making up the annual accounts between the Treasurer, the Melter & Refiner, & the Coiner was occasioned by the latter officer, who after their accounts had been rendered, adjusted, compared, & approved, were so tardy in closing them by signing them, that I was on the point of sending them without their signatures, reporting their delinquency.

I am not aware of any improper delay in signing the accounts after they were made up. I think the Superintendent must be mistaken, as the Treasurer writes under date of the 16th Feby, "that the annual settlements of accounts between the Treasurer & Melter & Refiner was made on the 22nd of Jany last", & Mr Bradford on the 30th of same month orders the Bullion in my vault to be delivered preparatory to a settlement in words & figures following, viz:

US Mint New Orleans

Sir Jany 30th 1839

Agreeably to the 29th section of the Act of Congress entitled "An act establishing a Mint regulating the coins of the United States approved Jany 18th 1837" I hereby direct that you deliver to the Treasurer of this Mint, all the coins & bullion in your possession, so that your accounts may be settled up to this time, in conformity with law.

Your humble servt

/Signed/ David Bradford

Supt.

The settlement could not be made until after this, & my account was settled on the following day, viz, on the 31st Jany, as per copy herewith - no very unpardonable delay.

If there were any delay in signing the accounts after settlement, it has entirely escaped my recollection, & if such were the fact, let the Superintendent establish it by the records of the Mint - let him adduce the book in which his letters are recorded

they being written at the time, may exhibit dates more accurately than can be established by the frail recollection of man, after such a lapse of time

On the occasion of the repair of the key, the circumstances were as near as I recollect, these: that I discovered some one with a key to be repaired interrupting one of the workmen who had been engaged on the Mint machinery - I said let the key be sent to a lock-smith, & go on with the work of the Mint. I believe the key was soon thereafter returned to me, & that I prepared the required rivet myself.

If the gentlemen entrusted with the investigation, should think this charge has sufficient gravity to require a farther investigation; let the porter be examined, to whom the offensive reply was made.

In appropriating the rooms & vaults, I acted according to the best of my judgement, & I believe in accordance with the true interest of the institution - if the Superintendant thought differently, he had only to issue his order for a change, & if I did not obey, to report my disobedience, when a higher power would decide between us.

I do not understand the Superintendant's complaint about illegal weighing, & delivering of Bullion, &c - let him explain. The Melter & Refiner & Coiner have both assisted in weighing at the request of the Treasurer, when it has been necessary.

The Superintendant is mistaken when he asserts in his letter of 26th May 1839 to the Director of the Mint, that "it was concerted by Messrs Tyler, and

Mapuell, that Mr Tyler should give the Assayer sufficient employment in assaying planchettes, & pieces of silver, to keep him out of the Treasurers office.

Wishing to know whether or not the standard of the metal was changed in the process of coining, I obtained from Doctor Hart some assays; not satisfied with the result, I gave him on different days pieces from the same bar or strip, without letting him know it - the result varied so materially, that I was not satisfied that he had paid sufficient attention, & may have remarked, that he had better continue the experiments, that it might keep him out of the Treasurers office, where I supposed he was improperly intermeddling.

I have preserved with great care the worn out dies. I am not aware of any departure from the requirements of law in relation to their destruction.

How far I have succeeded in my efforts to preserve the relations which should subsist between the officers of the New Orleans B Mint; & also between the officers & men employed therein, will be better understood by their testimony, than by any thing I can say - they are in my opinion so different from the relations which ordinarily subsist between Master & slave, that it is difficult for those accustomed to the latter; duty to appreciate the former.

My authority, & my duty are well defined in the following letters from the Director & Superintendant.

~~U.S. Mint New Orleans~~

7

Mint of the United States
Feby 27th 1838

Sir

I am glad to hear by your letter of the 18th inst received this morning, that you have advanced so far in your preparations for commencing work at the New Orleans Mint. I have been kept long in the dark as to your proceedings, owing as I now suppose, to the illness of Mr Radford.

I approve entirely of your course with regard to Mr Jackson, & hope you will not hesitate to lop off the other faithless workmen of whom you speak. In conducting such an establishment as is committed to your charge, at such a place as New Orleans, great firmness will be necessary on the part of the officers, & I am happy to find, that they have the moral courage to exert it. They must be the masters, for they have all the responsibility. We are astonished to hear that Mr Barrett presumed to meddle in this matter; & above all that he should have encouraged the men in their insubordination. He will find on his return, that he has done his last work for this mint.

Your dies were ordered on the receipt of my last letter from Mr Forstall, and are now in progress. We shall also send you a series of coins.

Mr Francis (to whom I have sent a messenger this morning) promises to have his adjusting balances finished for your mint in the course of a week.

Complete sets of large balances

with many other articles ordered in France, were sent from Havre in the Formosa to New York; & I am sorry to say, that much alarm is entertained for her safety; as she has been 70 days out, & is not heard of. Her loss would be a severe misfortune to the Branch Mints.

I have written to Mr Fastall that his draft to pay Messrs Barrett & Co should be honored on presentation.

Please to inform Dr Hart that Mr Eckfod graduated the measure for his nomial solution, by weighing the requisite quantities of water in it, marking the lines at which they stood. As it is a question of proportion, it is not necessary that French weights should be employed.

Let me thank you for your very satisfactory letter, & invite you to communicate to me freely from time to time, the proceedings in your department of the mint. I am very anxious to be kept informed as to your condition.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
R M Patterson
Director

To)
Rufus Tyler Esq
Coiner Br Mint
New Orleans

U S B Mint New Orleans
July 13th 1838

Rufus Tyler Esq Coiner

Sir

As the operations of this Institution are about being suspended till the first of November, I have to request that you re-

re-engage as many of the workmen in your depart-
ment to resume their work at that time, as you
think proper; and that you employ in the interim
such others, as will be requisite to fill the places
of those who have left. You are authorized to
allow such as re-engage half pay from the first
day of August next, to the first day of November
next: and such as you employ, you may agree
shall have full pay from the date of their em-
ployment, & their passage paid.

I have further to request, that
you leave two men to keep the machinery in
complete order, till the first of November next.

Yr Obt Servt
David Bradford
Supt.
Mint of the United States
April 8th 1839

Sir

In a letter from Mr Tyler of the
29th ult he asks me to give my views as to the
direct intercourse or control on the part of the
Superintendent of the men employed in a depart-
ment, either as to their selection, engagement, or
dismissal; also as to the admission of visiters. In
a postscript you state that you concur with Mr Tyler
in asking my views on "the matters stated".

To this joint application I answer
cheerfully, because I think it important, that the
exact relations between the officers & the men, should

be well understood by all the parties; & because moreover, there seems to me to be no difficulty in defining these relations; no such difficulty at least occurs, at this mint.

In the first place then, I consider a Superintendent of a Branch Mint, as occupying exactly the same position as to its interior government, as the Director occupies in the principal Mint. He is its President. To him is expressly committed by law, the engaging, employing of the workmen, & as a consequence of this power, it is he alone who can dismiss them. So far, there can be no question as to rights and authority.

But now, as to the mode of exercising these rights, we must have reference to expediency & custom; & both these are adverse to the direct interference of the Chief Officer of the Mint. The immediate responsibility of each department is with the officer at the head of that department, & he must therefore have the immediate command of his men, & all orders to them should come either immediately from him, or from the Superintendent through him. Such has been the unvaried course of this Mint, & such you know is the course always pursued in the Army & Navy.

As to the employment of new hands; though, this is legally & formally done by the Superintendent, the selection should be really made by the officer who recommends his candidate to the Superintendent. If the selection shall appear to be a proper one, the man is employed — if not

the officer is asked to name another.

If a man behave badly, the officer should report him to the Superintendant for dismissal; if the reasons are deemed sufficient, the man is accordingly dismissed by the Superintendent.

As to the question of visiters, the custom here is for the head of a department when for any sufficient reason, he wishes visiters to be excluded, to apply to the chief officer to have this order given; it is given as a matter of course is adhered to unless some special case may be presented requiring that an exception be made. If the Superintendent is not in the Mint, the Officer gives himself the order to the doorkeepers.

I am sure that both you, & Mr Tyler will see the reasonableness of these views, & customs, as to the relative powers, & actions of the Superintendent, & the other officers of the Mint.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
/signed/ R Mc Patterson
Director

Having been obliged to defer a service required by the Superintendant, which services could in my opinion have been deferred until after this investigation close, I superadd the correspondence on the subject, that the Committee may be enabled to decide, how far the requirement of the Superintendent was at this time necessary,

a expedient, whon for I am justified in asking time, vin believing as I do believe, the letter was written with the view of embarassing me, a interrupting my defence.

U$B Mint New Orleans
Superintendents Office
June 12 dt 1839

Sir

I have just received a letter from the Director of the Mint, dated the 4th inst, of which the following is an extract.

"I am sorry that I overlooked your question as to the old dies. The course to be taken is to deface them effectually, either by a hammer, a by nitric acid, or by heating them & cutting a cross on their face by a chisel. This should be done by the Coiner in your presence, & a report of the destroyed die sent to me; so that a corresponding notice may be inserted in the Register, which is kept here of dies forwarded to the Branch Mints. When the dies are thoroughly defaced, the steel may be employed by the Coiner for any useful purpose to which it may be applicable".

The following extracts from the letters of the Director to me, & from me to him of last year, will afford the requisite information of the number & denomination of dies sent to this Branch Mint by the Director last year received in due course of the mail, viz:

April 9th 1838 The Director writes me "I send you to-day through the Secretary of the Treasury a box

containing two pairs of dies for striking dimes."

April 11th 1838 The Director writes me: "I wrote to you on the 9th by the ordinary mail to state, that I had that day sent a set of dies for your Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury with a request, that he would forward them to you under his frank. They were half dollar dies". (discrepancy)

May 3rd 1838 I wrote to the Director a letter of which the following is an extract viz: Your letters of the 9th 11th & 16th inst have been received, & are now before me. The half dollar dies & half dime dyes have arrived safe & ~~—~~ in good order" (The letter of the 16th says nothing of dies.) The foregoing is all the written information of record respecting the dies of last year, I have in this office.

As I wish to report the destruction of the dies of last year, if practicable by the next mail, I have to request, that they be cut asonder with a chisel in the blacksmiths shop in this Branch mint to-morrow morning, at any time before 9 o'clock A.M. you may fix on, & let me know so that I may be present, & see them thoroughly defaced".

To Rufus Tyler Esq
Coiner B Mint
N.O.

Your humble Sert
David Bradford
Supt

P.S. I omitted on the opposite page after the fifteenth line to insert the following (which you will consider as done) viz:
May 22nd 1839 I wrote the Director "The twenty five cents dies have arrived".

D B Supt

1 Copy 1

New Orleans Br Mint
New Orleans June 13th 1839

Sir

I was engaged with my counsel last evening till near midnight in preparing my ~~defence~~ answer to your charges to be presented to morrow to the investigating committee, & arranged to pass with him all the early part of of this day in completing the work. Therefore, it is not in my power to comply with your request at 9 o'clock this morning, which request I did not receive until near midnight last evening.

If agreeable to you, I will perform this service in the course of the day, & to-morrow morning in season for you to advise by the mail, as we are all to appear before the committee to morrow afternoon, & as there are a great many papers to investigate, reply to, I hope you will consider this a sufficient reason for my asking time.

I will notify you of the earliest hour when I can perform this service

Respectfully
Your obedient servant
Rufus Tyler
Coiner Br Mint N Orleans.

To
David Bradford Esq
Superintendent Br Mint
New Orleans

As to my character & capacity, I leave others to establish all that may be necessary in relation thereto. Rufus Tyler

Rufus Tyler being duly sworn says, that the facts set forth in the preceding papers so far as known to himself are true, & that what he has stated from the information of others, he believes to be true.

Rufus Tyler

Copy

Dr Coiner of the Mint in a/c with the Treasurer Cr

1838		Ounces	Dwt
	To Silver Ingots delivered in May	9.572	60
	" Silver Ingots delivered in June	46.016	00
	" do do do July	27.582	60
	" do do do December	19.098	35
1839			
Jany 5	" do do do	15.478	40
9	" do do do	47.439	95
	Ounces	165.187	90

Treasurers Office
31 January 1839

1838		Ounces	Dwt
June 28	By Silver Clippings	18.950	25
" "	" do do	7.797	15
July 27	" 367.434 Dimes Stand weight	31.576	35
Dec 29	" 35.000 do do do	3.007	81
1839			
Jany 7	" Silver Clippings	1.552	55
	" do do delivered in Dec 1838	14.947	91
16	" 70.000 Dimes stand weight	3.007	81
7	" $360.00 in Dimes stand weight	309	37
"	" Wastage on 165.187.90 Ingots	330	37
	" Balance weight to settle a/c	83.708	33
	Ounces	165.187	90

(signed) Edm Forstall Treasurer B Mint
Rufus Tyler Coiner